

In the Claims

Please amend the Claims as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A system for electronic supply chain management and collaborative planning, including:
 - a plurality of hubs, remotely coupled to each other;
 - a set of information stored in a database coupled to each said hub, wherein said set of information is owned by business entities relatively proximate to each said hub;
 - a set of regional authorities controlling access to said set of information;
 - ~~a computer program coupled to each said hub that distinguishes between simple tasks and complex tasks;~~
 - a first server coupled to at least one of said hubs, wherein said first server is dedicated to process a first message type for complex tasks ~~performing said distinguished simple tasks;~~ and
 - a second server coupled to said at least one of said hubs, wherein said second server is dedicated to process a second message type for simple tasks ~~performing said distinguished complex tasks;~~ and
 - a computer program coupled to said at least one of said hubs to receive a message generated from a client device identifying a transaction, to determine whether said message is said first message type or said second message type based on said transaction, to send said message to said first server when said message is determined to be said first message type, and to send said message to said second server when said message is determined to be said second message type.
2. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 1, wherein at least one hub is designated as a said regional authority to control synchronization of ~~with respect to synchronizing~~ said set of information stored at other said hubs.
3. (Original) A system as in claim 2, wherein said set of information is synchronized by restricting which hub in said plurality of hubs can perform a write operation to the set of information.

4. (Original) A system as in claim 2, wherein said regional authority includes a token, wherein said token permits said regional authority to exercise control.
5. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 2, wherein the designation of said regional authority is determined by at least one of the following: (1) subnet location, (2) class of goods, (3) proximity to a valued client, and (4) network locations as measured by geography or network location.
6. (Original) A system as in claim 2, wherein the designation of said regional authority is responsive to which hub in said plurality of hubs is experiencing more business activity than other hubs in said plurality of hubs.
7. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 6, wherein said business activity is measured by at least one of the following: (1) number of transactions, (2) number of units being ~~trading~~ traded, and (3) monetary value of transactions.
8. (Original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said information regards an electronic transaction performed by said hub or a business entity that conducts business using said hub.
9. (Currently Amended) A method for processing transactions at a hub, said method including steps of:
 - receiving messages from ~~a user~~ at least one client device at a software module of a local hub, said software module executable by a processing device;
 - parsing each of said messages and determining ~~the~~ a relative complexity of tasks associated with said messages;
 - separating each of said messages into a first type of message or a second type of message based on the relative complexity of tasks associated with said messages, wherein said first type of message requires processing, and said second type of message does not require processing;
 - ~~separating messages that require processing from those messages that do not require processing~~;
 - sending ~~a message~~ said first type of message requiring processing to a heavyweight server, wherein said first type of message requiring processing is processed and transmitted from said heavyweight serversent to a user; and

sending ~~a message~~ said second type of message not requiring processing to a lightweight server, wherein said second type of message not requiring processing is transmitted from said lightweight server ~~sent to a user~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein said first type of message requests a transaction associated with a set of information stored in a database coupled to said local hub, and said method further including includes steps of receiving and processing a said first type of message with said set of information from said user regarding a message requiring processing at said heavyweight server.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 9, ~~wherein said~~ further including steps of processing includes performing a series of calculations and storing a result in a said database.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~memory~~ module including instructions executable by a processing device, storing information including instructions, the instructions executable by a processing, the instructions including:

receiving a messages from a user at a local hub;

parsing each of said messages and determining ~~the a~~ a relative complexity of tasks associated with said messages;

separating each of said messages into a first type of message or a second type of message based on said relative complexity of tasks associated with said messages, wherein said first type of message requires processing, and said second type of message does not require processing;

~~separating messages that require processing from those messages that do not require processing;~~

sending ~~a message~~ said first type of message requiring processing to a heavyweight server, wherein said first type of message requiring processing is processed and transmitted from said heavyweight server ~~sent to a user~~; and

sending ~~a message~~ said second type of message not requiring processing to a lightweight server, wherein said second type of message not requiring processing is transmitted from said lightweight server ~~sent to a user~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~memory~~ module as in claim 14, further including instructions for receiving and processing said first type of message with a set of information ~~from said user regarding a message requiring processing~~ at said heavyweight server.

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~memory~~ module as in claim 14, ~~wherein said~~ further including instructions for ~~processing includes~~ performing a series of calculations and storing a result in a database.

17-20. (Cancelled).

21. (New) A system for electronic supply chain management and collaborative planning, including:

a plurality of local hubs, remotely coupled to each other, each of said plurality of local hubs including:

a heavyweight server to process a first type of message that requires complex processing;

a lightweight server to process a second type of message that does not require complex processing; and

a database to store supply chain information, wherein said supply chain information is owned by business entities relatively proximate to each said local hub;

a first regional authority corresponding to one of said plurality of local hubs for controlling access to said supply chain information in databases associated with a first group of said plurality of local hubs;

a second regional authority corresponding to another one of said plurality of local hubs for controlling access to said supply chain information in databases associated with a second group of said plurality of local hubs; and

a communication network to communicate between said first regional authority and said second regional authority, wherein said first regional authority requests instructions for obtaining data under control of said second regional authority.

22. (New) A system as in claim 21, wherein said one of said plurality of local hubs is designated as said first regional authority and said other one of said plurality of local hubs is designated as said second regional authority based on factors selected from a group consisting of a physical region in which said first and second groups of said plurality of local hubs are located, a class of goods in databases associated with said first and second groups of said plurality of local hubs, a subnet location, a proximity to a valued client, and a network location as measured by a ping time.

23. (New) A system for electronic supply chain management and collaborative planning, including:

a plurality of local hubs, remotely coupled to each other via a communication network and each including:

a database to store a set of information, wherein said set of information is owned by business entities relatively proximate to each said hub;

a first server to process a first message type for complex tasks using said set of information;

a second server to process a second message type for simple tasks; and

a computer program executable by at least one of said first and second servers in response to a message from a client device identifying a transaction, to determine whether said message is said first message type or said second message type based on said transaction, to send said message to said first server when said message is determined to be said first message type, and to send said message to said second server when said message is determined to be said second message type.